

Overseas Press • Club Bulletin

VOL. 43, NO. 2
FEBRUARY 1988

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Up-and-Coming

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
—"The Wines of France." OPCer **Bob Misch** hosts a French wine-tasting at Frederick Wildman & Sons, 21 East 69 St., NYC. Free to members and 1 guest—but reservations through Mary Novick are essential!

Tuesday, March 8, 5:30 p.m.—OPCer **Whit Bassow**, former Moscow Bureau Chief of *Newsweek*, on his new book, *The Moscow Correspondents: From John Reed to Nicholas Daniloff*. Bogert Room.

Friday, April 29, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
—"Jazz Trios in Contrast" at the OPC, featuring the Doc Cheatham Trio with Chuck Folds on piano and Jackie Williams on drums; the Bill Mays Trio with Victor Lewis on drums and Harvey Swartz on bass. Rumford Hall, \$5 admission. NO RESERVATIONS for this event; seating on first-come, first-served basis.

Members, free; guests, \$5. Reservations are requested for all events through Mary Novick at the Club, 212-983-4655.

OPC Directory Progress Report

OPC Manager Mary Novick sends this reminder: In order to be listed in the OPC Membership Directory, a completed information form *must* be returned to the office *accompanied by payment of dues*. Any questions about dues, or information for the directory, should be directed to Novick at the Club: 212-983-4655.

Sullivan's Tribute

Wilma Dobie, chairman of the OPC Jazz Committee, sends news that The House That Jazz Built is offering OPCers copies of *Together*, the late jazz vocalist Maxine Sullivan's last album, which was recorded at the age of 74 four months before her death last April.

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"Hizzoner" Addresses the OPC

Mayor Ed Koch Spurns Text to Pepper Remarks With a Few Barbs

by FRED FERGUSON

New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch's prepared remarks for his luncheon address before the OPC on Tuesday, January 19th, were predictable enough—which is probably why he dumped his text at the outset.

"I'm not going to read my speech," said the Mayor in preamble to a rapid-fire, free-swinging exchange with a full-house audience. "One of my aides will pass it out. You can take it home and read it."

"The Mayor made quick work of the peace plan in Central America and urging the U.S. to support Israel in dealing with the current Palestinian riots. He also went on to make a few points his speechwriter, no doubt, had avoided. On at least three occasions that we counted, for example, he had a few kind words for Ronald Reagan—and a few unkind words for his fellow Democrat, former President Jimmy Carter.

"Didn't we keep the press out of Grenada? And we're a free country!"

"If Jimmy Carter were president today, he'd be leading the battle against Israel," said the Mayor, referring to the controversy over Israeli moves to control the Palestinian rioters. "President Reagan

gist of the prepared text, praising the Arias has been very supportive of Israel, thank God."

In fact, Koch said, Reagan has backed Israel "in the worst of times such as in the Lebanese war, when people around him were denouncing Israel. There was a cabal among some of those in the Reagan cabinet. But Reagan stood up to them. His remarks were always well-tempered. He showed enormous good will."

Koch called the U.S. support of Israel a "moral imperative."

"The safety of the State of Israel is vital to the United States," he said. "Israel is the only country that will be with us when the chips are down."

The Mayor also defended the Israeli leadership's criticism of the media coverage of the Palestinian riots and the 33

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Photos by Stefan L. Adler

Mayor Edward I. Koch set the record—his record—straight at the Club's first luncheon address of 1988.

Who's doing what, when, where and, if there's space, why

by RALPH D. GARDNER

WELL WORTH THE TRIP: OPCer **Aaron R. Einfrank**, formerly stationed in Islamabad, Pakistan since 1984, and now headquartered at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich, arrived in New York just in time to greet friends at the OPC Christmas Party, adding considerable cheer to an already joyous event.

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NO TIME TO RELAX: Member **Elinor Griest**, retired after thirty-three years at *Reader's Digest* (reporting from the Washington, D.C. bureau, then moving to New York as a senior editor to select non-fiction books for condensation in the magazine), is as busy as ever, writing, traveling and commuting between her Manhattan apartment and Connecticut homestead.

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IT'S VACATIONLAND FOR MANY, BUT NOT FOR KANY! Heading for Maine—which he was assured would be a quiet, restful retirement haven—former OPC Director and AP and CBS executive **Howard L. Kany** and wife, Rita, settled in the serene environs of Poland Springs in 1985. But if you know Howard you can guess the rest of the story: He's busy writing and photographing for *Maine Life* and *Lewiston/Auburn Today*, bi-monthly magazines of which he is editor; reporting daily plus providing features and Sunday columns for the *Lewiston Sun-Journal*; producing and broadcasting twice-weekly commentaries for radio station WKZS, Portland, and corresponding for *Bajan*, the magazine of the Caribbean, published in Barbados. Rita, maintaining an only slightly less- hectic pace, is writing and illustrating two children's books and painting at her lakeside studio.

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WEARING ONE HAT, ONE BONNET: Also reporting from Maine, OPCer **Allan A. Swenson**, author of 30 books published by Doubleday, Ballantine, Grosset & Dunlap and others, writes that he's wearing two hats. Living and working up in the Tundra country, Allan is editor-in-chief and general manager of Gannett Books, of the Guy Gannett Publishing Company. And as "Virginia Langley," he writes the Best Vacation Ever series of children's books. He for-

merly was syndicated garden columnist for Scripps-Howard's NEA Service. The author of *Cultivating Carnivorous Plants* (Doubleday), he still raises them as a hobby. One of his pet plants recently grew 73 traps, all of them busily luring and eating insects. I'm gonna run out and get one for my apartment!

* * *

SHE'S IN A SCHOOL DAZE: **Blythe Foote Finke** gave straight A's to the summer program at Trinity College sponsored by the U. of Massachusetts. In fact, her report card on this unusually industrious summer vacation option was so glowing, we opted to let her tell you about it herself, lest you think we're cheating. Blythe reported:

"I participated last summer as a 65-year-old student with some 100 college students, and the intermingling was a glorious success. Going back to school, no matter how old we are, briefly and mixing generations is a big plus on both sides. In addition what you learn and experience through top flight British tutors and living at Trinity College is a once in a lifetime experience for writers and creators. There is probably no better place to revive the intellectual juices than in the heart of Oxford, England, with the best of British life on the doorstep."

The program, which marks its 23rd year this summer, is taught by British faculty and is limited to 120 students—and the application deadline is March 31. "Courses are assigned on a first come, first served basis, and because of that, sign up quickly," wrote Blythe, "because the most popular courses fill quickly." If you're interested, write: Oxford Summer Seminar, Dept. of English, Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. 01003.



Blythe Foote Finke

FROM THE SEE-YOU-IN-CHURCH DEPT.: **Nino Lo Bello**, based in Vienna and Rome as a freelance for nearly 30 years, has a new book out—his seventh!—which bears the unlikely title, *Nino Lo*

Bello's Guide To The Vatican, published by the Chicago Review Press. The guidebook is the first of its type to be written in English by an American newspaperman. Nino's eighth book is due in March in German. This one—"Der Vatikan"—is for university students and it will be part of a 16-volume series under the general title of *Kurz und Klar* (*Short and Clear*). Nino's first book on the Vatican reached the best-seller list in *The New York Times* in May 1969.

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REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN? It was interesting to read in *The New York Times* on January 6th that *The Stars and Stripes* was still being published at Darmstadt, near Frankfurt, where I recall it was issued during World War II. **Jack Raymond** and **Irv Taubkin** were staff members back then. I don't know if any current staffers are OPCers, but all who are eligible are welcome to join.

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LET'S GET TECHNICAL: OPCer **Richard Consolas** has announced two significant breakthroughs by his organization, Technical Insights, of Ft. Lee/Englewood, N.J., which he describes as "the intelligence company specializing in technical innovation worldwide." They recently published *Superconductivity: A Guide to the Corporate Players* for personnel in that field, and a report that lightweight, all-plastic conducting polymers will make a huge impact on the electronics and electrical industries.

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MEGA-HONORS: Member **Edward L. Bernays**, 96 years old and still active, was recently the Special Honoree at the Detroit Science Center's Annual Michigan Science Trailblazers Recognition Dinner. Bernays, internationally famed as the Father of Public Relations, joins Walter P. Chrysler and Henry Ford as a recipient of this award.

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NEWSMAN IN THE NEWS: In *IAPA News*, publication of the Inter American Press Association, we note OPCer **Bill Williamson**, the group's executive director, photographed with U.S. and Latin American journalists attending the unveiling of a bust honoring Guillermo Cano Isaza, murdered editor of the Bogota, Colombia daily newspaper, *El Espectador*. The ceremony took place at the Association's Miami headquarters.

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TAPS: Friends of Milwaukee newsman Walter G. Wegner will be saddened to learn of his death last month, at age 85.

see next page.

Known as Chick, he started as a reporter at the Milwaukee *Journal* in 1925. In 1939 he joined the *Sentinel*, working as a reporter and later an editor. He was for many years president of the Milwaukee Press Club.

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FILED BUT FOUND: A researcher preparing to write about the illustrious press career of OPCer **Ruth Cowan Nash** uncovered an interesting item about Ruth that appeared in *Newsweek* in 1947. At that time, an AP Washington staffer, the article said, she covered the Chicago crime scene when that was no work for a lady. She became a political writer and, in World War II, a correspondent who worked under fire in North Africa, England and the ETO. Today, in good health despite vision problems, she lives with her husband in Harpers Ferry, W. VA.

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HOME AGAIN: Member **Walter H. Diamond**, editor and publisher of Overseas Press and Consultants, Hartsdale, N.Y., and his wife, Dorothy, have returned from a U.N. assignment to the Isle of Man. There they advised the Manx government on development and marketing of the nation's new free trade zone, known as Freeport, located at Ramsey.

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CHEER-'EM-UP DEPARTMENT: **Wambly Bald**, fabled Paris correspondent and chronicler of the "lost generation," is a patient at Cabrini Hospital and could use some cheering up. He writes that he'd welcome visits or notes (but no phone calls) from his many OPC friends. (Cabrini Hospital, Room 1437, 227 East 19th St., New York, N.Y., 10003.)

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FOREWARNED: Lucky readers of the *Las Vegas Sun* who followed the advice of its financial columnist, OPCer **Johannes Steel**, fared better than most on Black Monday—Oct. 19—when the stock market plunged more than 500 points. In a page-one *Sun* report, **Hank Greenspun** notes that, on Oct. 4th, Steel wrote: "We are headed for the most unpredictable and possibly dangerous markets since 1929." He could not have been more precise when, a week later, he forecast that the market was "in for intraday moves of between 300 to 500 points." Earlier, Steel urged readers to buy one-ounce Krugerrands at \$45. Gold, he predicted, would go to \$200 or more. It rose to \$800 an ounce before dropping back to its present close to \$500 level!

Thank You, Thank You

The Staff of the Overseas Press Club—Mary Novick, Manager, and Lili Lee, Bookkeeper—would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Overseas Press Club for their generous contributions to the Employees Christmas Fund. The staff of the Chemists' Club, who share in your donations, would also like to thank one and all.

With best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.



Mary Novick and Lili Lee: Celebrating with the rest of the OPCers at the Holiday Party on December 17.

Sullivan Tribute from Page 1

John S. Wilson of *The New York Times* praised the album as "one of the most completely satisfying collections [Sullivan] ever recorded." It includes the songs of Jule Styne, ranging from his wartime hits ("I Don't Want to Walk Without You, "I've Heard That Song Before") through 30 years of his Broadway scores.

"Maxine Sullivan was co-president with Earl Hines of the OPC Honorary Jazz Committee," said Dobie. "She worked very hard for the Club, not only singing for us but also with her ideas and getting her fellow musicians to play for us.

"The money that we raise from Maxine's last album will help The House That Jazz Built, which was badly vandalized recently, to install an alarm system."

Copies of *Together* are available for \$10 each, plus \$1.50 postage and handling, from: Paula Morris, The House That Jazz Built, 818 Ritter Place, Bronx, N.Y. 10459. The House That Jazz Built is a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to the preservation of jazz. All proceeds from the sale of *Together* are tax-deductible, Dobie noted.

OPC Friends Attend Ed Talbert Services

Washington-based **Joe Newman** sends us this report by **Jessie Stearns** on the passing of **Ansel (Ed) Talbert**. An obituary appeared in last month's OPC Bulletin, but Jessie provides information on Ed's life and career that was then unavailable.

by **JESSIE STEARNS**

WASHINGTON: Friends and admirers, including members of the Overseas Press Club and the National Press Club, gathered recently at Arlington National Cemetery to pay final tribute to **Ansel (Ed) Talbert**. He was buried with full military honors on November 16.

As reporter and later aviation editor of the *New York Herald Tribune*, Ed became an outstanding aviation writer. His first major assignment, in 1937, was covering the Hindenburg disaster. It catapulted him onto the front page, making the cub reporter a star overnight.

He remained one of the paper's stars up to the time it closed in 1966. During his career Ed interviewed aviation notables, including Jimmy Doolittle, Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes and Billy Mitchell.

He was a friend of Paul Garber, curator of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington. Though advanced in age, Garber appeared at the cemetery to pay his final respects.

The OPC was represented by **Fay Wells**, herself a distinguished flyer and reporter; **Barrett McGurn**, former OPC president; **Joe Newman**, foreign correspondent of the *Herald Tribune*; and **Jessie Stearns**.

Ed died during the last days of September. The exact date is not known because he was alone in his Bridgeport, Conn., apartment. He was found the first week in October by Geoffrey Arend, publisher of *Air Cargo News*, with which Ed had been associated.

Arend and his wife, Sabiha, undertook a nationwide search for members of Ed's family, without success. Ed was divorced many years ago from the former Marlene Zimmer, and apparently had little contact with their two children.

Ed was born in Washington, D.C., on June 6, 1912, the son of a South Carolina State Senator. He was educated at Columbia University, receiving Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees. He took special courses at McGill University and attended the RAF Intelligence School in London. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Air Force, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was attached to the 8th Air Force and worked on ULTRA project that broke the

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Koch from Page 1

deaths (as we go to press) that resulted from confrontations with the Israeli army.

When **Bob Brown** of *Editor & Publisher* asked about the restrictions imposed by Israel on correspondents reporting from the West Bank, the Mayor didn't hesitate to respond.

"Didn't we keep the press out of Grenada?" Koch chided. "And we're a free country!" He added, "Well the Israelis are not doing a very good job of keeping the media out anyway. You see it every night on TV."

Koch, who explained his noted willingness to comment on the world scene by citing New York as one of the most international of cities, covered a score of subjects, many in response to questions from the audience. Here's a sampling:

- **On further U.S. aid to the contras in Nicaragua**—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias "should be allowed to decide that, and we should go along with what he says. If he fails to take a position, Congress should decide."

- **On Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saaveda**—"I spent an hour and 45 minutes with him [on his recent fact-finding trip to Managua] and he was charming—but I wouldn't vote for him."

- **Who does Koch believe will be the Democratic nominee for president?**—"My preference is Mario Cuomo. I don't believe any of the current candidates can win. I'm convinced Cuomo will be available when and if the Democrats want him."

- **On the Republican debates**—"A bore. It's not possible to have a debate with seven people."

- **Koch's economic forecast for New York City in '88**—"We face relatively hard times. The past five years have been terrific in terms of growth." (As he did on several other occasions, Koch warned of his forthcoming announcement of cuts in city services.)

- **On the bright side of things**—"We're going to get a marvelous exchange rate. Our three top hotels and three best restaurants ought to take out ads telling the Europeans and the Japanese that, if they come to New York, they are going to find it a bargain. And any companies that pay for this ad, I will say something nice about."

- **Would Koch be interested in a foreign diplomatic post after his mayoral service?**—"No. 'I'll be too old."

The luncheon audience included reporters from *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, *The Financial Times*, *Newsday*, the Associated Press and the *New York Post*. Koch's appearance at the OPC was cited the following day in *The New York Daily News* and reported over CBS Radio.

STEFAN ADLER: Foreign And Domestic Portraits

Selected cibachromes by the photographer Stefan Loring Adler are on display in the OPC's Exhibition Gallery throughout February, reports Charles Rotkin, chairman of the OPC Photo Committee.

For this show, Adler, a mountain climber, has included portraits ranging from Basque farmers to a Ringling Bros. circus performer; and scenes ranging from a Himalayan bridge to a unique view of the World Trade Center.

To describe his work, Adler, who was named for the famed and now octogenarian photo editor Stefan Lorant, cites Lorant's definition of what photojournalism should be: "Simply, it is to tell people the truth as you believe it." To that end, whether shooting a Hindu monk, the street children of Nepal, or a Spanish matador slaying the bull, Adler says that he "strives to capture not the violence but the grace of the human experience. And, of course, the hope."

A native of New York, Adler resides in Queens.

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Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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ACTIVE OVERSEAS

Paula Dobbyn—Associated Press Radio (Nicaragua)

Sponsors: Charles Schreiber, John P. Walsh

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German code in 1942. For his services, he received a number of decorations, including the French Legion of Honor.

In addition to press clubs in New York and Washington, Ed was a member of the Wings Club, the Aviation and Space Writers Association and the Tokyo Press Club.

He last appeared at the OPC Book Night on the *New York Herald Tribune*. He displayed his loyalty to a friend and fearlessness in speaking his mind when he rose before the large audience to remark to the author on what he felt was unfair and abusive treatment of the late **Marguerite Higgins**, another distinguished reporter of the *Herald Tribune*.